Town Of Highgate

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December 10, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to support the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance ("CAPA," File ID 1114050901562) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

The Town of Highgate benefits from local cable news by allowing a much wider audience to share in the tasks of municipal business. Because community members are able to view the meetings on their television or computer, they are able to know the details of budget expenditures and policy making even if their schedule doesn't allow them to attend meetings. We are pleased to be able to provide this service to our communities which helps local governments be more transparent and accountable to their constituents. On a more personal note, the recreational coverage is equally beneficial for community members with limited mobility because they can view a local sports event, a concert in the park or a play at the school long even if they are unable to make it to the event. This is one more way to reduce isolation and keep neighbors connected which is a clear mission of the state and local health priorities.

This local presence enables the residents of our Highgate to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining "franchise fee" in an overly broad fashion to include "in-kind" support, the FCC's proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels – something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Heidi Britch-Valenta

Heidi Britch-Valenta
Highgate Town Administrator

Cc: Selectboard